

March 16, 1976

PRESIDENT: So Senator Lewis' amendment will be ruled out of order. Any further discussion on Section 2? The question is the adoption of Section 2. Did you want to be recognized, Senator Simpson?

SENATOR SIMPSON: Yes, yes, yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Then under the procedure we're using I would suggest that we reject the Section until such time as we get to the personal services Section, that we might decide that then and then go back and maybe relook at the other sections and see if they're proper or not.

PRESIDENT: Would it be possible for the Appropriations Committee to design a plan for presentation of this?

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, I suggested while you were talking and didn't hear, of course it wasn't for you anyhow, that we would be much better off to go to Section 12 first, make the decision there, whatever it is and then we can go to the rest of the sections because my votes are going to be dependent upon what happens in Section 12.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would not object ... would not rule that out of order is you'd want to jump to Section 12, but that's your choice, Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President, I will withdraw my motion to approve Section 2 and, with your permission, will go to Section 12 and will defer to Senator Frank Lewis' motion.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: Well, Senator Marvel, for the edification of the balance of the House could you explain Section 12 first of all before we have the Lewis amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: I'll explain the whole philosophy behind it as far as the majority of the Committee is concerned. That is that.... I would suggest that you turn to page 17. We read some of this. Basically what we're doing is giving salary increases to classified and nonclassified employees of the University of Nebraska system and the state college system, basically seven percent. The money is given to the administrative body, the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges and the Board of Regents, to make the proper allocation. The only qualification is that you can't take money from classified employees and give it to nonclassified or vice versa. That seven percent figure which applies to classified employees has got to classified, the total has to go to them. Now if you want rationale for it I'll give it very bluntly and briefly. The Legislature has been the whipping boy and the scapegoat for salaries in higher education since year one. We pay administrators and we elect various boards to assume responsibility. We pay little attention, at the moment, to the Board of Trustees and the State College Board. Now we ought to give them something to do, or we ought to pass a constitutional amendment to get rid of them. Either you put the heat where it ought to be put, or you simply get rid of the Board. There's no point in having boards unless you give them some responsibility. Mr. President, that, basically, is the rationale behind Section 12 that starts on page 17. Is that what you had in mind in the explanation?